HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN PALADIN LTS
(VERSION 9 OR HIGHER)
USB with PERSISTENCE MODE

How to Make Your Own PALADIN LTS (Version 9 or Higher) USB with Persistence Mode

IMPORTANT:

This guide explains how to create a PALADIN LTS Version 9 (or higher) USB with Persistence Mode. Persistence Mode allows you to save settings, updates, and files between reboots — turning your PALADIN USB into a powerful, portable forensic toolkit.

What You Will Need:

- A USB drive (at least 16GB or larger recommended)

- The PALADIN LTS ISO (Download from sumuri.com/product/paladin-lts/)

- A Windows PC

- Software BalenaEtcher (Download free from https://etcher.balena.io/)

Why Use Persistence Mode?

Persistence Mode allows you to:

- Save custom settings (e.g., Autopsy configurations, network settings)

- Retain downloaded tools and updates

- Maintain logs, case notes, and reports between reboots

- Save valuable setup time by eliminating the need to reconfigure PALADIN each use

Without Persistence Mode, all changes would be lost after every reboot.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Download PALADIN LTS
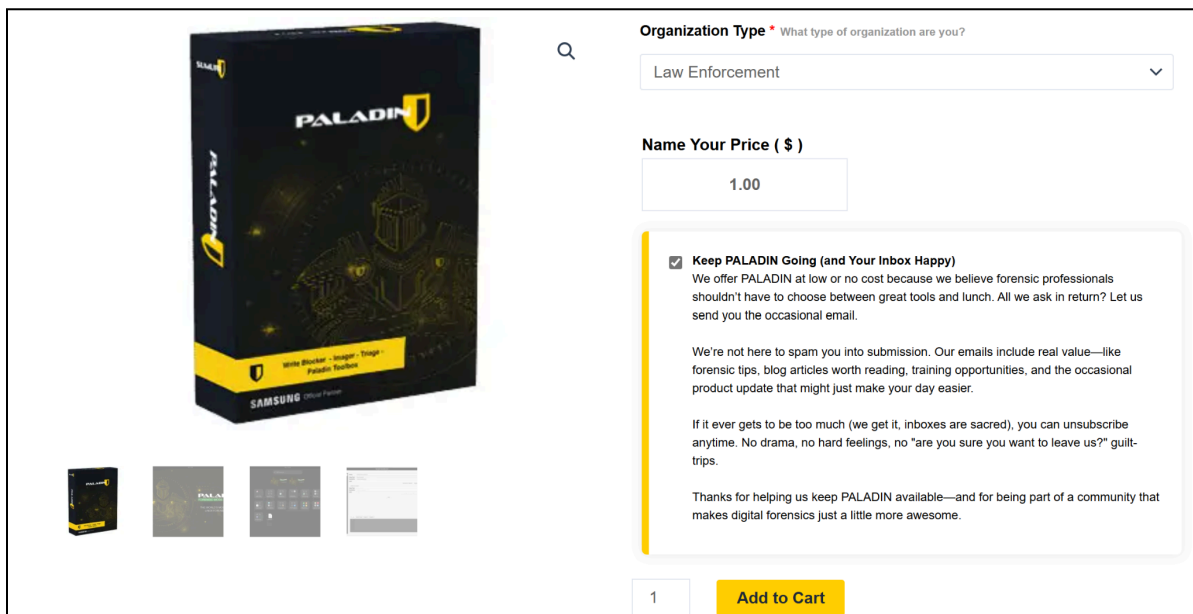
- Visit https://sumuri.com/product/paladin-lts/.
- Add PALADIN LTS to your cart and complete the donation process.
- After purchase, download the PALADIN LTS ISO file.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Creating a bootable USB will erase all existing data on the target drive. Ensure you have backed up any necessary files from the USB drive before proceeding. The size of the persistent storage you allocate will impact how many changes and how much data you can save on the USB. While persistent mode is highly beneficial, it is still recommended to back up critical case data to a separate, secure storage medium regularly.

For the process of writing the PALADIN ISO image to your USB drive, BalenaEtcher is the recommended utility. While various tools are available for creating bootable media, the reliability and success rate of the etching process can differ significantly based on the software employed. BalenaEtcher is favored due to its consistent performance, user-friendly interface, and integrated validation feature, which collectively contribute to a higher likelihood of producing a correctly functioning bootable drive. Users opting for alternative etching tools should be aware that their experience and the successful creation of the bootable media may vary.
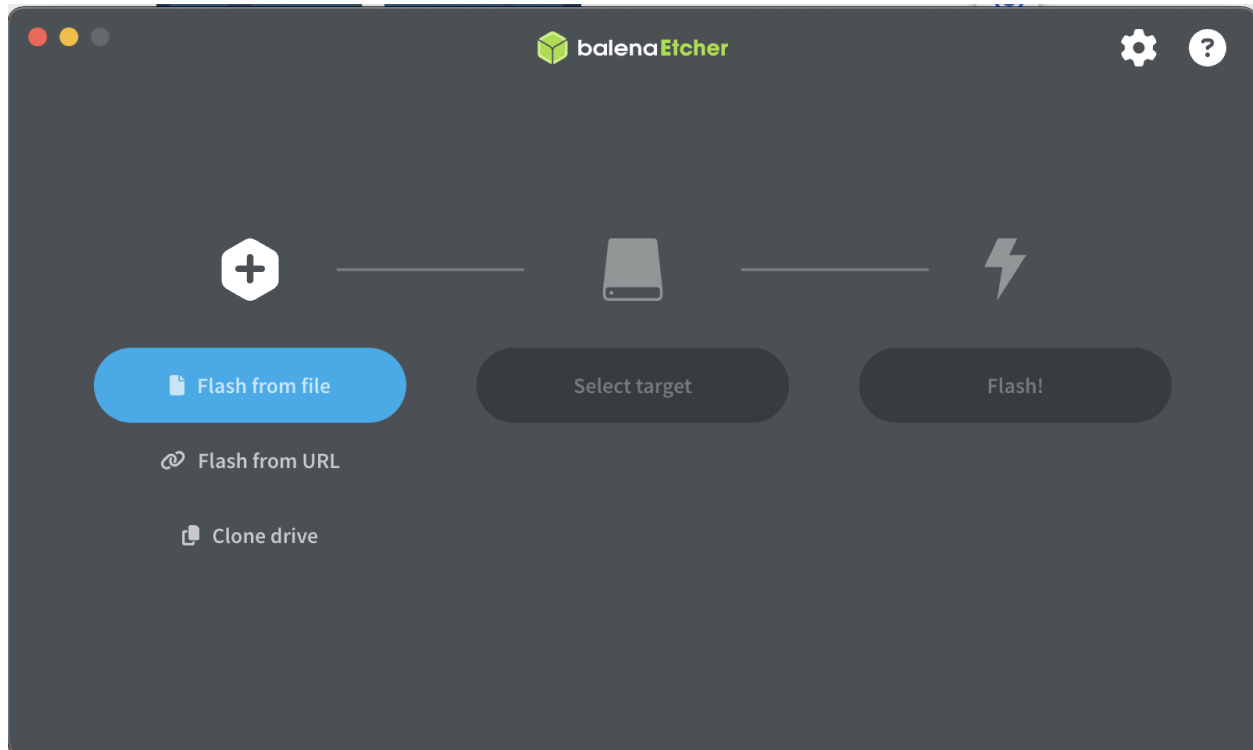
Method 1: Using BalenaEtcher (Recommended)

1.) **Download and install BalenaEtcher** https://etcher.balena.io/
2.) **Open BalenaEtcher and insert USB:** launch the BalenaEtcher application. Insert your USB drive into an available USB port on your Windows or Mac computer.
3.) **Select the PALADIN LTS ISO:** in the BalenaEtcher window, click the button that says "Flash from file" or "Select image". A file browser will open. Navigate to the location where you saved the PALADIN LTS ISO file, select it, and click "Open".
4.) **Select the Target USB Drive:** BalenaEtcher should automatically detect connected USB drives. Click on "Select target". From the list of available drives, carefully select your USB drive. It is extremely important to verify that you should have selected the correct drive to avoid accidentally erasing data from another storage device.
5.) **Start the Flashing Process:** Once the ISO image and the target USB are selected, the "Flash!" button will become active. Click "Flash!". BalenaEtcher may request administrative privileges to perform the write operation; grant these permissions.
6.) **Wait for Flashing and Validation:** BalenaEtcher will now write the ISO image to the USB drive. A progress bat will indicate the status. After the flashing is complete, Etcher will typically perform a validation step to ensure the data was written correctly. Wait for the process to finish.

7.) **Flashing Complete:** Once the process is finished, BalenaEtcher will indicate that the flash is complete. You can now close BalenaEtcher and safely remove the USB drive from your computer.

3A. (Optional but Recommended) Format the Persistent Volume as "writable"
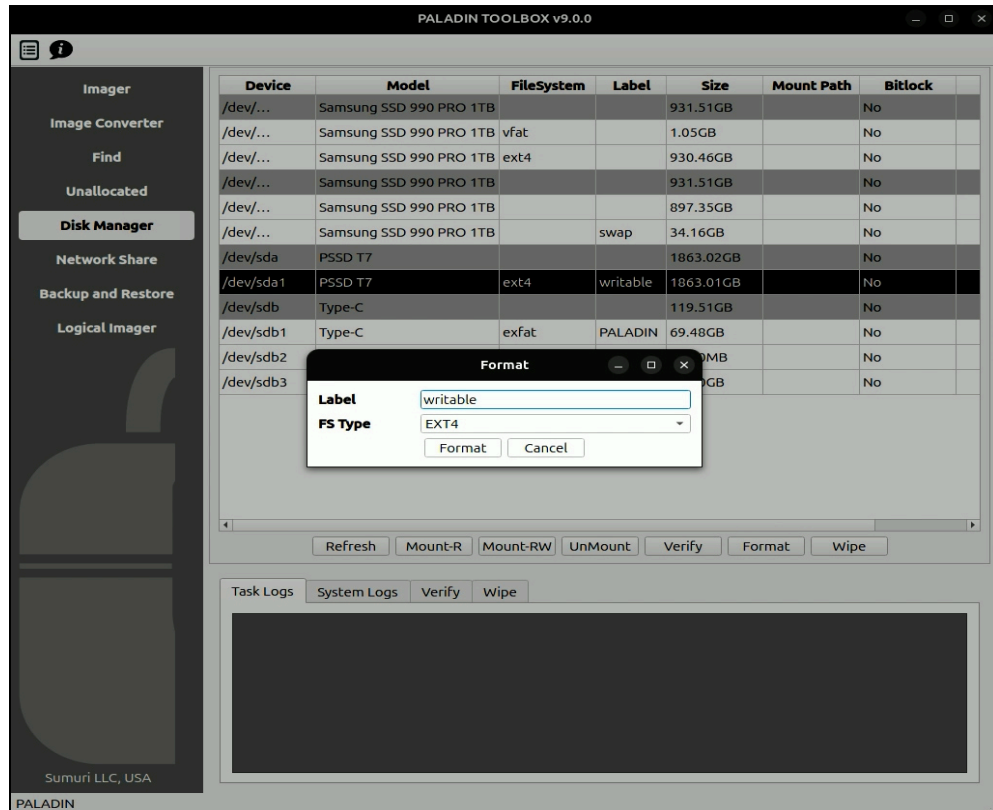
After creating your PALADIN USB with persistence using PALADIN Toolbox, you can optionally format the persistent volume for improved compatibility and performance:

1. Boot into PALADIN using the USB you just created.
2. Open the **PALADIN Toolbox** and select **Disk Manager**.
3. Locate the persistent partition you created within the PALADIN Toolbox.
   ○ It is usually formatted as **ext4** and may be unnamed or have a generic label.
4. Format the persistent partition again as **ext4** (if needed), and **label** it exactly as:
   writable (all lowercase)

5. Apply and confirm the changes.

Why Label It "writable"?

Labeling the partition as **writable** ensures that Persistence Mode correctly recognizes and mounts the volume as a cache area, allowing you to save settings, logs, updates, downloaded tools, and case files between reboots.

Important Tip:

Always double-check that you are formatting the correct partition to avoid losing any important data.

To Boot PALADIN in Persistence Mode:

- Insert the PALADIN USB into the computer you want to use.

- Enter the computer's Boot Menu (typically by pressing **F12**, **F2**, **ESC**, or **DEL** at startup — varies by manufacturer).

- Select the USB drive as the boot device.

- When prompted, select **Persistence Mode** to launch PALADIN.

You can now save settings, update tools, create case files — and everything will persist between boots!

Tips for Best Performance:

- Allow up to **3–5 minutes** for the first boot into Persistence Mode (especially if you reserved a large persistence space).

- Always safely eject the USB drive after use to protect your persistent data.

- Regularly back up important case data saved on your USB.

Contact Us

For more information about PALADIN feel free to reach out to us directly at any time.

OUR CONTACT INFO
SUMURI LLC
https://sumuri.com
Phone: +1 302 570 0015
Email: sales@sumuri.com